



***BLESSING-RIEMAN***  
***College of Nursing  
& Health Sciences***

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Development  
Committee

## Sexual Harassment

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to define the guidelines and procedures regarding sexual harassment, as defined by Title IX.

### POLICY

#### I. Policy Statement

The College is committed to providing a learning and working environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect where individuals are free from sexual harassment. Consistent with this commitment, the College's Non-Discrimination Notice, and the U.S. Department of Education's implementing regulations for Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") (see 34 C.F.R. § 106 et seq.), the College prohibits Sexual Harassment that occurs within its Education Programs and Activities pursuant to this Sexual Harassment Policy ("Policy").

For purposes of this Policy, Sexual Harassment includes Quid Pro Quo Sexual Harassment, Hostile Environment Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking.

Administrators, faculty member, staff, students, contractors, guests, and other members of the College community who commit Sexual Harassment are subject to the full range of College discipline including verbal reprimand; written reprimand; mandatory training, coaching, or counseling; mandatory monitoring; partial or full probation; partial or full suspension; fines; permanent separation from the institution (that is, termination or dismissal); physical restriction from College property; cancellation of contracts; and any combination of the same.

The College will provide persons who have experienced Sexual Harassment ongoing remedies as reasonably necessary to restore or preserve access to the College's Education Programs

and Activities.

## II. Scope

This Policy applies to Sexual Harassment that occurs within the College's Education Programs and Activities and that is committed by an administrator, faculty member, staff, student, contractor, guest, or other member of the College community.

This Policy does not apply to Sexual Harassment that occurs off-campus, in a private setting, and outside the scope of the College's Education Programs and Activities. This Policy does not apply to Sexual Harassment that occurs outside the geographic boundaries of the United States, even if the Sexual Harassment occurs in the College's Education Programs and Activities, such as a study abroad program. Sexual Harassment that occurs either off-campus, in a private setting, and outside the geographic boundaries of the United States is governed by the Student Code of Conduct if committed by a student, the Faculty Handbook if committed by a faculty member, or other College policies and standards if committed by an employee.

## III. Definitions

1. "Complainant" is an alleged victim of Sexual Harassment.
2. "Respondent" is a person alleged to have perpetrated Sexual Harassment.
3. "Sexual Harassment" is conduct on the basis of sex that constitutes Quid Pro Quo Sexual Harassment, Hostile Environment Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking.
4. "Quid Pro Quo Sexual Harassment" is an employee of the College conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the College on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.
5. "Hostile Environment Sexual Harassment" is unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person access to the College's Education Programs and Activities.
6. "Sexual Assault" includes the sex offenses of Rape, Sodomy, Sexual Assault with an Object, Fondling, Incest, and Statutory Rape.[1]
  - a. "Rape" is the carnal knowledge of a person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. There is "carnal knowledge" if there is the slightest penetration of the vagina or penis by the sexual organ of the other person. Attempted Rape is included.
  - b. "Sodomy" is oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
  - c. "Sexual Assault with an Object" is using an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the

body of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. An "object" or "instrument" is anything used by the offender other than the offender's genitalia.

- d. "Fondling" is the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
  - e. "Incest" is sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by Illinois law.
  - f. "Statutory Rape" is sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent as defined by Illinois law.
7. "Domestic Violence" is felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of Illinois, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of Illinois.
8. "Dating Violence" is violence committed by a person –
- a. Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
  - b. Where the existence of such a relationship will be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
    - i. The length of the relationship;
    - ii. The type of relationship; and
    - iii. The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
9. "Stalking" is engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:
- a. Fear for their safety or the safety of others; or
  - b. Suffer substantial emotional distress.
10. "Consent" refers to words or actions that a reasonable person in the perspective of the Respondent would understand as agreement to engage in the sexual conduct at issue. A person who is Incapacitated is not capable of giving Consent.
11. "Coercion" is direct or implied threat of force, violence, danger, hardship, or retribution sufficient to persuade a reasonable person of ordinary susceptibility to perform an act which otherwise would not have been performed or acquiesce in an act to which one would otherwise not have submitted. Coercion can include

unreasonable and sustained pressure for sexual activity. Coercive behavior differs from seductive behavior based on the type of pressure someone uses to get consent from another. A person's words or conduct cannot amount to Coercion for purposes of this Policy unless they wrongfully impair the other's freedom of will and ability to choose whether or not to engage in sexual activity.

12. "Incapacitated" refers to the state where a person does not appreciate the nature or fact of sexual activity due to the effect of drugs or alcohol consumption, medical condition or disability, or due to a state of unconsciousness or sleep.
13. "Retaliation" is intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX and its implementing regulations or because an individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this Policy.
14. "Complainant" means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute Sexual Harassment.
15. "Respondent" means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute Sexual Harassment.
16. "Formal Complaint" means a document filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging Sexual Harassment against a Respondent and requesting that the College investigate the allegation of Sexual Harassment in accordance with this Policy. At the time of filing a Formal Complaint, a Complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the College's Education Programs and Activities. A "document filed by a Complainant" means a document or electronic submission (such as an email) that contains the Complainant's physical or electronic signature or otherwise indicates that the Complainant is the person filing the Complaint.
17. "Supportive Measures" are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered, as appropriate, and reasonably available, and without fee or charge, that are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the College's Education Programs and Activities without unreasonably burdening another party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties implicated by a report or the College's education environment, or to deter Sexual Harassment. Supportive measures may include: counseling, extensions of academic or other deadlines, course-related adjustments, modifications to work or class schedules, campus escort services, changes in work or housing locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of campus, other changes to academic, living, dining, transportation, and working situations, honoring an order of protection or no contact order entered by a State civil or criminal court, and other similar measures. Supportive Measures may also include mutual restrictions on contact between the parties implicated by a report.
18. "Education Programs and Activities" refers to all the operations of the College, including, but not limited to, in-person and online educational instruction, employment, research activities, extracurricular activities, athletics, residence life, dining services, performances, and community engagement and outreach programs. The term applies to all activity that occurs on campus or on other

property owned or occupied by the College. It also includes off-campus locations, events, or circumstances over which the College exercises substantial control over the Respondent and the context in which the Sexual Harassment occurs, including Sexual Harassment occurring in any building owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the College.

[1] The College's definition of "Sexual Assault" is mandated by federal regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Those regulations require the College to adopt a definition of "Sexual Assault" that incorporates various forcible and non-forcible sex crimes as defined by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System. See 34 C.F.R. § 106.30(a).

#### **IV. Understanding Hostile Environment Sexual Harassment**

In determining whether a hostile environment exists, the College will consider the totality of circumstances, including factors such as the actual impact the conduct has had on the Complainant; the nature and severity of the conduct at issue; the frequency and duration of the conduct; the relationship between the parties (including accounting for whether one individual has power or authority over the other); the respective ages of the parties; the context in which the conduct occurred; and the number of persons affected. The College will evaluate the totality of circumstances from the perspective of a reasonable person in the Complainant's position. A person's adverse subjective reaction to conduct is not sufficient, in and of itself, to establish the existence of a hostile environment.

The College encourages members of the College community to report any and all instances of Sexual Harassment, even if they are unsure whether the conduct rises to the level of a Policy violation.

Some specific examples of conduct that may constitute Sexual Harassment if unwelcome include, but are not limited to:

1. Unreasonable pressure for a dating, romantic, or intimate relationship or sexual contact
2. Unwelcome kissing, hugging, or massaging
3. Sexual innuendos, jokes, or humor
4. Displaying sexual graffiti, pictures, videos, or posters
5. Using sexually explicit profanity
6. Asking about, or telling about, sexual fantasies, sexual preferences, or sexual activities
7. E-mail, internet, or other electronic use that violates this Policy.
8. Leering or staring at someone in a sexual way, such as staring at a person's breasts or groin
9. Sending sexually explicit emails, text messages, or social media posts
10. Commenting on a person's dress in a sexual manner
11. Giving unwelcome personal gifts such as lingerie that suggest the desire for a

romantic relationship

12. Insulting, demeaning, or degrading another person based on gender or gender stereotypes.

## V. Understanding Consent and Incapacitation

### 1. Consent

Lack of consent is a critical factor in determining whether Sexual Harassment has occurred. As defined above, consent is an informed, freely given, and mutually understood agreement to participate in specific sexual acts with another person that is not achieved through unreasonable manipulation or coercion—or any kind of physical force or weapon—and requires having cognitive ability to agree to participate. Consent requires an outward demonstration, through mutually understandable words, conduct or action, indicating that an individual has freely chosen to engage in the specific sexual acts. A verbal “no” constitutes lack of consent, even if it sounds insincere or indecisive.

- a. Silence or lack of physical or verbal resistance does not imply consent.
- b. If coercion, intimidation, threats, and/or physical force are used, there is no consent.
- c. Consent cannot be inferred from a person’s manner of dress.
- d. Consent to one form of sexual activity does not imply consent to other forms of sexual activity.
- e. Consent to engage in sexual activity with one person does not imply consent to engage in sexual activity with another.
- f. Consent to past sexual activity does not constitute consent to future sexual activity.
- g. Consent can be withdrawn at any time. A person who initially consents to sexual activity is deemed not to have consented to any sexual activity that occurs after he or she withdraws consent. When consent is withdrawn, sexual activity must immediately stop.
- h. Being in a romantic relationship with someone does not imply consent to sexual activity. Even in the context of an ongoing relationship, consent must be sought and freely given for each specific sexual act.
- i. Effective consent may not exist when there is a disparity in power between the parties (e.g., faculty/student, supervisor/employee).
- j. A person cannot consent to sexual activity if that person is unable to understand the nature of the activity or give knowing consent due to circumstances, including without limitation the following:
  - i. The individual is incapacitated due to drug or alcohol consumption, either voluntarily or involuntarily;
  - ii. The individual is unconscious, asleep, or otherwise unaware that sexual activity is occurring;

- iii. The individual is below the minimum age of consent in the applicable jurisdiction (17 years in Illinois); or
- iv. The individual has a mental disability that impairs his or her ability to provide consent.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. **Incapacitation**

Incapacitation is a state where an individual cannot make an informed and rational decision to consent to engage in sexual contact because the individual lacks conscious knowledge of the nature of the act (e.g., to understand the “who, what, where, when, why or how” of the sexual interaction) and/or is physically or mentally helpless. An individual is also considered incapacitated, and therefore unable to give consent, when asleep, unconscious, or otherwise unaware that sexual contact is occurring.

Incapacitation can only be found when the Respondent knew or should have known that the Complainant was incapacitated when viewed from the position of a sober, reasonable person. One’s own intoxication is not an excuse for failure to recognize another person’s incapacitation.

Incapacitation may result from the use of alcohol and/or other drugs; however, consumption of alcohol or other drugs, inebriation, or intoxication alone are insufficient to establish incapacitation. Incapacitation is beyond mere drunkenness or intoxication. The impact of alcohol or drugs varies from person to person, and evaluating incapacitation requires an assessment of how consumption of alcohol and/or drugs impacts an individual’s:

- a. Decision-making ability
- b. Awareness of consequences
- c. Ability to make informed judgments
- d. Capacity to appreciate the nature of circumstances of the act.

No single factor is determinative of incapacitation. Some common signs that someone may be incapacitated include slurred speech, confusion, shaky balance, stumbling or falling down, vomiting, and unconsciousness.

<sup>1</sup>*This language mirrors 110 ILCS 155/10(1)(vii). Note that the age of consent for statutory rape will vary by jurisdiction.*

## VI. **Reporting Sexual Harassment**

### 1. **Reporting to the College**

Any person may report Sexual Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator oversees and provides leadership for the activities related to Title IX compliance, training, investigations, enforcement, and reporting. The Title IX Coordinator will coordinate with law enforcement when appropriate.

The Title IX Coordinator can also answer questions regarding the process and procedures for reporting, investigating, and adjudicating complaints of Title IX violations. The Coordinator is a non-confidential source but can direct members to on- and off-campus confidential resources.

Reports may be made by complainants, third parties, witnesses, or bystanders, an



may be made in person, by regular mail, telephone, electronic mail, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. In-person reports must be made during normal business hours, but reports can be made by regular mail, telephone, or electronic mail at any time, including outside normal business hours.

The name and contact information for the Title IX Coordinator is:

Jenna Crabtree, MBA  
Dean of Enrollment Management/Business Manager  
Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences  
3609 North Marx Drive  
Quincy, IL 62305-7005  
[www.brcn.edu](http://www.brcn.edu)  
[jcrabtree@brcn.edu](mailto:jcrabtree@brcn.edu)  
217-228-5520, ext. 6961

In addition to reporting to the Title IX Coordinator, any person may report Sexual Harassment to the following employees:

The name and contact information for the Deputy Title IX Coordinator is:

Jan Akright, PhD, RN  
Academic Dean  
Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences  
3609 North Marx Drive Quincy, IL 62305-7005  
[www.brcn.edu](http://www.brcn.edu)  
[jakright@brcn.edu](mailto:jakright@brcn.edu)  
217-228-5520, ext 6907

In addition to reporting to the Title IX Coordinator, any person may report Sexual Harassment to any College employee with managerial authority over other employees, including cabinet members, deans, department heads, unit supervisors, and other managers, other than those identified as confidential resources (collectively "Reporting Officials") who must promptly forward such report of Sexual Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator.

All College employees, other than those identified as confidential resources, have a duty to report Sexual Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator when they receive a report of such conduct, witness such conduct, or otherwise obtain information about such conduct. This includes employees who may have a professional license requiring confidentiality if they are not employed by the College in that professional role. An employee who does not report Sexual Harassment as required by this Policy may be disciplined accordingly, up to and including termination.

Reporting Officials are required to report incidents of Sexual Harassment within 24 hours of receiving information regarding the incident. Others are encouraged to file as soon as possible because delayed reporting may limit the College's ability to investigate and respond to the complaint.<sup>2</sup>



**<sup>2</sup> Special Procedure Concerning Complaints Against the Title IX Coordinator, the President, or Other Administrators Ranked Higher than the Title IX Coordinator**

*If a report involves alleged conduct on the part of the College's President/CEO, the College's Board of Trustees ("Board") will designate appropriate individuals to fulfill appropriate functions under this policy, including, but not limited to, the investigator, hearing panel, administrative officer, informal resolution officer, and/or appeal officer. Based on the information gathered by the investigation.*

*If a complaint involves alleged conduct on the part of the Title IX Coordinator or any administrator ranked higher than the Title IX Coordinator, the President/CEO will designate appropriate individuals to fulfill appropriate functions under this policy, including, but not limited to, the investigator, hearing panel, administrative officer, informal resolution officer, and/or appeal officer.*

**2. Reporting Officials**

Reporting Officials have a duty to report Sexual Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator when they receive a report of such conduct, witness such conduct, or otherwise obtain information about such conduct. This includes Reporting Officials who may have a professional license requiring confidentiality if they are not employed by the College in that professional role. Reporting Officials who do not report Sexual Harassment as required by this Policy may be disciplined accordingly, up to and including termination.

Reporting Officials are required to report and may not keep the information confidential. Students and others should be aware that providing information about Sexual Harassment to a Reporting Official will result in that information being forwarded to the Title IX Coordinator for review and investigation.

College employees who are not Reporting Officials are encouraged, but are not required to, forward reports of Sexual Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator. The College encourages all employees and members of the College community to report any and all incidents of Sexual Harassment, even if they are unsure if the conduct is a violation of this policy

**3. Information Provided in Report**

There is no formally required content. However, so that the College has sufficient information to investigate a complaint, the following elements should be included to the extent possible:

- a. Date(s) and time(s) of the alleged conduct
- b. Name(s) of all persons involved in the alleged conduct
- c. Name(s) of possible witnesses
- d. A statement of the event(s) which is (are) the cause of the complaint
- e. Contact information for the complainant so that the College may follow up appropriately

**VII. To File a Report Electronically and/or anonymously**

Individuals, including third parties and bystanders, can submit a report of Sexual Harassment

electronically by completing the form found at: Online Silent Witness Form: <https://www.brcn.edu/about-us/campus-safety>. This form is also available in the Student Services Office as well as the college website under Campus Safety.

They may also submit a report of Sexual Harassment to the BRCN Confidential Compliance Hotline: 1-888-495-4387. Reports made through these methods can be submitted anonymously.

Upon filing an electronic report, the electronic reporter (if not anonymous) will receive an electronic response within 12 hours. These reports will be sent to the Title IX Coordinator who will make every effort to respond or take other corrective action, but the College's ability to respond or take corrective action following an anonymous report may be limited. This reporting mechanism is not a substitute for the obligation of all College employees, except for the confidential resources identified, to make a report as described above.

Reporting Officials may not submit anonymous reports when they receive a report of sexual misconduct. Reporting Officials are required to provide the College with all relevant information.

#### **VIII. Information Regarding the Rights and Options of the Parties**

Once a report of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking is made, the victim has several options such as, but not limited to:

1. obtaining Supportive Measures
2. contacting parents or a relative
3. seeking legal advice
4. seeking personal counseling (always recommended)
5. pursuing legal action against the perpetrator
6. filing a Formal Complaint
7. requesting that no further action be taken

Upon receiving a report of an incident of Sexual Harassment prohibited under this Policy, the College will provide the Complainant with a written document (separate from this Policy) listing, in plain, concise language, the Complainant's available rights, options and resources, as well as a description of the College's procedures for investigating and resolving the report. The College will also provide the Respondent with a written document (separate from this Policy) listing, in plain and concise language, the Respondent's available rights, options and resources, as well as a description of the College's procedures for investigating and resolving the report.

#### **IX. Special Advice For Individuals Reporting Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking**

##### **1. Reporting to Law Enforcement**

Individuals who feel they have experienced Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking have the option to pursue a criminal complaint with the appropriate law enforcement agency, to pursue a complaint with the College through its Complaint Resolution Procedures or to pursue both processes consecutively or concurrently. A victim of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking also has the right not to pursue any complaint to either the College or to a

law enforcement agency.

For more information regarding the option to pursue a criminal complaint, contact:

Quincy Police Department

110 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street

Quincy, IL 62301

217-228-4470

In case of an emergency, dial 911

The Title IX Coordinator and the Blessing Hospital Security Department are available to assist students with making contact with appropriate law enforcement authorities. (For more information on the extent of a particular law enforcement agency's reporting obligations to other entities or its ability to protect an individual's privacy or have confidential communications during the criminal complaint process, contact the appropriate law enforcement agency.)

In addition to having the option of pursuing a criminal complaint, individuals also have the right to request that law enforcement issue emergency protective restraining orders or to pursue such orders through the court process. The College can assist parties who wish to do so. Individuals who receive emergency or permanent protective or restraining orders through a criminal or civil process should notify the Title IX Coordinator so that the College can work with the individual and the subject of the restraining order to manage compliance with the order on campus. For more information about such orders see:

Quanada-Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs

2707 Maine Street

Quincy, IL 62301

217-222-0069

1-800-369-2287

Quanada.org

Or

Quincy Police Department

110 South 8th Street

Quincy, IL 62301

217-228-4470

In case of an emergency, dial 911

The Title IX Coordinator and the Campus Security Department will assist individuals with transportation to a hospital if they so request, with making contact with appropriate law enforcement authorities upon request, and with accessing all appropriate resources and support, including on- and off-campus confidential victim services and Sexual Assault crisis support.

Whether or not criminal charges are filed, the College will initiate an investigation as provided in this Policy where appropriate. The "Requesting Confidentiality to a Non-Confidential Source" Section below includes additional information regarding requests for confidentiality or requests that no investigation be conducted. Any

pending criminal investigation or criminal proceeding may have some impact on the timing of the College's investigation, but the College will commence or resume its own investigation as soon as is practicable under the circumstances. The College reserves the right to commence and/or complete its own investigation prior to the completion of any criminal investigation or criminal proceeding. The College also may, in some circumstances, be required by law enforcement to defer the fact-finding portion of its investigation for a limited time while law enforcement gathers evidence. In such cases, the Title IX Coordinator shall inform the parties of the need to defer the College's fact-finding, provide regular updates on the status of the investigation and notify the parties when the College's fact-finding resumes. During this time period, the College will take any additional measures necessary to protect and support the parties and the College community. The College's authority to sanction members of the College community applies only to the violation of College rules, policies and procedures.

Because the standards for finding a violation of criminal law are different from the standards for finding a violation of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking under this Policy, criminal investigations or reports are not determinative of whether Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking, for purposes of this Policy, has occurred. In other words, conduct may constitute Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking under this Policy even if law enforcement agencies lack sufficient evidence of a crime and therefore decline to investigate or prosecute

## **2. Medical Assistance and Preserving Evidence**

If you believe you are the victim of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, or Dating Violence, get to safety and do everything possible to preserve evidence by making certain that the crime scene is not disturbed. Preservation of evidence may be necessary for proof of the crime or in obtaining a protection order. The College also encourages all individuals who feel they have been victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking to seek immediate assistance from a medical provider for emergency services, including treatment of any injury.

Seeking medical attention and preserving evidence helps preserve the full range of options for an individual, including the options of working through the College's Complaint Resolution Procedures and/or legal options including obtaining a protective order from a court, pursuing a civil action, and/or participating in a law enforcement investigation and criminal prosecution.

Even if an individual has not been physically hurt, a timely medical examination is recommended so that forensic evidence can be collected and preserved. An individual may choose to allow the collection of evidence by medical personnel even if they choose not to make a report to the police.

Local medical assistance can be obtained at:  
Blessing Hospital  
Broadway at 11th St  
PO Box 7005

Quincy, IL 62305-7005  
217-223-1200

The College recommends the following for individuals who believe they are victims of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence or Stalking:

- a. Get to a safe place as soon as possible.
- b. Try to preserve all physical evidence of the crime – avoid showering, bathing, using the toilet, rinsing one’s mouth, smoking, or changing clothes. If it is necessary, put all clothing that was worn at the time of the incident in a paper bag, not a plastic one.
- c. Do not launder or discard bedding or otherwise clean the area where the assault occurred- preserve for law enforcement.
- d. Preserve all forms of electronic communication that occurred before, during, or after the assault.
- e. Contact law enforcement by calling 911.
- f. Seek medical attention as soon as possible – all medical injuries are not immediately apparent. This will also be necessary to help collect evidence that may be needed in case the individual decides to press charges. Local hospitals have evidence collection kits necessary for criminal prosecution should the victim wish to pursue charges. Take a full change of clothing, including shoes, for use after a medical examination.
- g. Contact a trusted person, such as a friend or family member for support.
- h. Talk with a professional licensed counselor, College chaplain, or health care provider who can help explain options, give information, and provide emotional support.
- i. Make a report to the Title IX Coordinator.
- j. Explore this Policy and avenues for resolution under this Policy.

It is also important to take steps to preserve evidence in cases of Stalking, to the extent such evidence exists. Such evidence is more likely to be in the form of letters, emails, text messages, electronic images, etc. rather than evidence of physical contact and violence. This type of non-physical evidence will also be useful in all types of Sexual Harassment investigations.

Under Illinois law, forensic medical examinations (i.e., evidence collection) sought subsequent to instances of sexual violence are free of charge to the patient. Victims can obtain a free forensic medical examination at:

Blessing Hospital  
Broadway at 11th St  
PO Box 7005  
Quincy, IL 62305-7005  
217-223-1200

Medical personnel may be covered by federal and/or state privacy laws, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Under Illinois law, medical personnel are required to alert police when it reasonably appears that the individual requesting the treatment has received an injury sustained as a victim of a criminal offense, including Sexual Assault. However, it is the individual's choice whether they want to speak to the police.

3. **Confidential Reporting**

The College recognizes that individuals who feel they have been victims of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking may require time and support in considering whether or how to participate in any College or law enforcement process. The College also recognizes that individuals who have been accused of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking may also require support. There are confidential resources on campus and in the community available to any individual who needs support or assistance.

a. **On-Campus Confidential Advisors**

Individuals wishing to receive confidential assistance without making a report to the College may speak with one of the College's confidential advisors. These confidential resources are available to assist you and will not report your circumstances to the College without your permission unless otherwise required to do so by law (such as when the victim is a minor). Confidential advisors are available to discuss incidents or accusations of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking with both Complainants and Respondents in confidence, and provide emotional support in a safe and confidential space.

Notwithstanding, when necessary, the on-campus confidential resource will make a non-identifying report to the appropriate College personnel so that reported crimes can be included in the College's annual crime statistics disclosure. Disclosures to confidential advisors will not trigger the College's investigation into an incident.

All of the College's confidential advisors shall receive forty hours (40) of initial training regarding sexual violence and participate in six (6) hours of annual continuing education thereafter. In addition to providing confidential counseling, confidential advisors also provide emergency and ongoing support to individuals who have experienced or been accused of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking including:

- i. Providing information regarding the individual's reporting options and possible outcomes, including making a report or a Formal Complaint under this Policy and notifying local law enforcement;
- ii. Providing information about available resources and services, including but not limited to services available on campus and through community-based resources such as sexual assault crisis centers, medical treatment facilities, counseling services, legal resources, medical forensic services and mental health

- services;
- iii. Providing information regarding orders of protection, no contact orders or similar lawful orders issued by the College or a criminal or civil court;
  - iv. An explanation of the individual's right to have privileged, confidential communications with the confidential advisor consistent with applicable law;
  - v. Upon request and as appropriate, providing assistance in contacting campus officials, community-based sexual assault crisis centers, campus security, and/or local law enforcement; and/or
  - vi. Upon request, providing assistance with securing Supportive Measures and accommodations.

The on-campus confidential advisor is:

Sarah Mueller, MSW, LCSW  
Counselor, Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences  
Broadway at 11<sup>th</sup> St  
PO Box 7005  
Quincy, IL 62305-7005  
Student Services Building  
muellers@brcn.edu  
217-228-5520, 📞 x 6997

BRCN Confidential Compliance Hotline

1-888-495-4387, 📞

**b. Confidential Resources in the Community**

The following off-campus agencies also employ individuals available to assist members of the College community with issues relating to Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking in confidence. Disclosures to these entities will not trigger the College's investigation into an incident. Please note that limitations of confidentiality may exist for individuals under the age of 18.

National Sexual Assault Telephone Hotline: 800-656-HOPE (4673)

RAINN Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network  
Rainn.org

State of Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline: 877-863-6338

Quana-da-Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs  
2707 Maine  
Quincy, IL 62301  
217-222-0069



1-800-369-2287  
<https://www.quanada.org/>

Avenues-Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocacy  
PO Box 284 Hannibal, MO 63401  
1-800-678-7713  
<https://www.domesticshelters.org/help/mo/hannibal/63401/avenues>

**4. Requesting Confidentiality to a Non-Confidential Source**

In some cases, an individual may disclose an incident of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking to a non-confidential source but wish to maintain confidentiality or request that no investigation into a particular incident be conducted or disciplinary action be taken. The College has designated the Title IX Coordinator to evaluate requests for confidentiality or that no formal action be taken and oversee the College's response to reports of alleged Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking.

If a Complainant discloses an incident, but requests confidentiality or is unwilling to participate in any investigation or adjudication process, the Title IX Coordinator, in consultation with other College administrators, will weigh the request against the College's obligation to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all students, including the Complainant and the alleged Respondent. When weighing a Complainant's request for confidentiality or that no investigation or resolution be pursued, the Title IX Coordinator will consider a range of factors, which may include but are not limited to, whether:

- a. The alleged Respondent is likely to commit additional acts of Sexual Harassment, such as:
  - i. Whether there have been other Sexual Harassment complaints about the same alleged Respondent;
  - ii. Whether the alleged Respondent has a history of arrests or records from a prior school indicating a history of violence;
  - iii. Whether the alleged Respondent threatened further Sexual Harassment against the Complainant or others;
  - iv. Whether the Title IX Sexual Harassment was committed by multiple perpetrators.
- b. The Title IX Sexual Harassment was perpetrated with a weapon;
- c. The Complainant is a minor;
- d. The College possesses other means to obtain relevant evidence of the Sexual Harassment (e.g., security cameras or personnel, physical evidence);
- e. The Complainant's report reveals a pattern of perpetration (e.g., via illicit use of drugs or alcohol) at a given location or by a particular group.

If none of these factors are present, the College is more likely to respect the

Complainant's request. If the College honors a Complainant's request for confidentiality or request that no investigation or resolution be pursued, the College's ability to investigate the incident comprehensively or pursue disciplinary action against the alleged Respondent(s) may potentially be limited.

The presence of one or more of the above factors could lead the Title IX Coordinator to file a Formal Complaint on behalf of the College, if doing so is not clearly unreasonable, as set forth below ("Formal Complaint"). If the Title IX Coordinator determines that the College cannot maintain a Complainant's confidentiality, the Title IX Coordinator will inform the Complainant prior to filing the Formal Complaint.

#### **X. Amnesty**

The Amnesty Provision provides immunity to any student who reports, in good faith, an alleged violation of this policy to the Title IX Coordinator or other responsible employee, so that the reporting student will not receive a disciplinary sanction by the College for a Student Code of Conduct violation, such as underage drinking, that is revealed in the course of such a report, unless the College determines that the violation was egregious. Instances of egregious violations may include but are not limited to taking action that places the health and safety of any other person at risk. However, the College reserves the right to require counseling, education, or other preventative measures to help prevent alcohol or drug violations in the future. The College's commitment to amnesty in these situations does not prevent action by police or other legal authorities against an individual who has illegally consumed alcohol or drugs.

#### **XI. Preliminary Assessment**

After receiving a report under "Reporting Sexual Harassment," the Title IX Coordinator will conduct a preliminary assessment to determine:

1. Whether the conduct, as reported, falls or could fall within the scope of this Policy (see "Scope"); and
2. Whether the conduct, as reported, constitutes or could constitute Sexual Harassment.

If the Title IX Coordinator determines that the conduct reported could not fall within the scope of this Policy, and/or could not constitute Sexual Harassment, even if investigated, the Title Coordinator will close the matter under this Policy and may notify the reporting party if doing so is consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"). The Title IX Coordinator may refer the report to other College offices, as appropriate, including for potential assessment under the under the Student Code of Conduct in the case of students and other College policies and standards, as applicable, for other persons.

If the Title IX Coordinator determines that the conduct reported could fall within the scope of this Policy, and/or could constitute Sexual Harassment, if investigated, the Title IX Coordinator will proceed to contact the Complainant (see "Contacting the Complainant").

As part of the preliminary assessment, the Title IX Coordinator may take investigative steps to determine the identity of the Complainant, if it is not apparent from the report.

#### **XII. Contacting the Complainant**

If a report is not closed as a result of the preliminary assessment (see "Preliminary

Assessment”) and the Complainant’s identity is known, the Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the Complainant to discuss the availability of Supportive Measures (see “Supportive Measures”); to discuss and consider the Complainant’s wishes with respect to Supportive Measures; to inform the Complainant about the availability of Supportive Measures with or without filing a Formal Complaint; and to explain the process for filing and pursuing a Formal Complaint. The Complainant will also be provided options for filing complaints with the local police and information about resources that are available on campus and in the community.

### **XIII. Supportive Measures**

If a report is not closed as a result of the preliminary assessment (see “Preliminary Assessment”), the College will offer and make available Supportive Measures to the Complainant regardless of whether the Complainant elects to file a Formal Complaint. Contemporaneously with the Respondent being notified of a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the Respondent of the availability of Supportive Measures for the Respondent, and the College will offer and make available Supportive Measures to the Respondent in the same manner in which it offers and makes them available to the Complainant. The College will also offer and make available Supportive Measures to the Respondent prior to the Respondent being notified of a Formal Complaint, if the Respondent requests such measures.

The Title IX Coordinator will provide the Complainant and Respondent with a written document (separate from this Policy) listing the available rights, options, and resources, including Supportive Measures, and describing of the College’s procedures for investigating and resolving reports of Sexual Harassment in plain, concise language.

The College will maintain the confidentiality of Supportive Measures provided to either a Complainant or Respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality does not impair the College’s ability to provide the Supportive Measures in question.

### **XIV. Interim Removal**

At any time after receiving a report of Sexual Harassment, the Title IX Coordinator may remove a student Respondent from one or more of the College’s Education Programs and Activities on an temporary basis if an individualized safety and risk analysis determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of Sexual Harassment justifies removal. In the event the Title IX Coordinator imposes an interim removal, the Title IX Coordinator must offer to meet with the Respondent within twenty-four hours and provide the Respondent an opportunity to challenge the interim removal.

In the case of a Respondent who is a non-student employee (administrator, faculty, or staff), and in its discretion, the College may place the Respondent on administrative leave at any time after receiving a report of Sexual Harassment, including during the pendency of the investigation and adjudication process (see “Investigation” and “Adjudication”).

For all other Respondents, including independent contractors and guests, the College retains broad discretion to prohibit such persons from entering onto its campus and other properties at any time, and for any reason, whether after receiving a report of Sexual Harassment or otherwise.

## **XV. Formal Complaint**

A Complainant may file a Formal Complaint with the Title IX Coordinator requesting that the College investigate and adjudicate a report of Sexual Harassment in accordance with the provisions "Investigation" and "Adjudication." Provided, however, that at the time the Complainant submits a Formal Complaint, the Complainant must be participating in, or attempting to participate in, one or more of the College's Education Programs or Activities.

A Complainant may file a Formal Complaint with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by regular mail, or by email using the contact information specified in "Reporting Sexual Harassment." No person may submit a Formal Complaint on the Complainant's behalf.

In any case, including a case where a Complainant elects not to file a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator may file a Formal Complaint on behalf of the College if doing so is not clearly unreasonable. Such action will normally be taken in limited circumstances involving serious or repeated conduct or where the alleged perpetrator may pose a continuing threat to the College Community. Factors the Title IX Coordinator may consider include (but are not limited to):

1. The alleged Respondent is likely to commit additional acts of Sexual Harassment, such as:
  - a. Whether there have been other Sexual Harassment complaints about the same alleged Respondent;
  - b. Whether the alleged Respondent has a history of arrests or records from a prior school indicating a history of violence;
  - c. Whether the alleged Respondent threatened further Sexual Harassment against the Complainant or others;
  - d. Whether the Title IX Sexual Harassment was committed by multiple perpetrators
2. The Title IX Sexual Harassment was perpetrated with a weapon
3. The Complainant is a minor
4. The College possesses other means to obtain relevant evidence of the Sexual Harassment (e.g., security cameras or personnel, physical evidence)
5. The Complainant's report reveals a pattern of perpetration (e.g., via illicit use of drugs or alcohol) at a given location or by a particular group.

If the Complainant or the Title IX Coordinator files a Formal Complaint, then the College will commence an investigation as specified in "Reporting Sexual Harassment" and proceed to adjudicate the matter as specified in "Adjudication," below. In all cases where a Formal Complaint is filed, the Complainant will be treated as a party, irrespective of the party's level of participation.

In a case where the Title IX Coordinator files a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will not act as a Complainant or otherwise as a party for purposes of the investigation and adjudication processes.

If neither the Reporting Party nor the Title IX Coordinator files a Formal Complaint, the complaint resolution provisions of this Policy will not be applied, but the Title IX Coordinator may refer the report to other College offices as appropriate.

**XVI. Consolidation of Formal Complaints**

The College may consolidate Formal Complaints as to allegations of Sexual Harassment against more than one Respondent, or by more than one Complainant against one or more Respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of Sexual Harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances. Where the investigation and adjudication process involve more than one Complainant or more than one Respondent, references in this Policy to the singular “party,” “Complainant,” or “Respondent” include the plural, as applicable. A Formal Complaint of Retaliation may be consolidated with a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment.

**XVII. Dismissal Prior to Commencement of Investigation**

In a case where the Complainant files a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will evaluate the Formal Complaint and must dismiss it if the Title IX Coordinator determines:

1. The conduct alleged in the Formal Complaint would not constitute Sexual Harassment, even if proved; or
2. The conduct alleged in the Formal Complaint falls outside the scope of the Policy specified in “Scope” (that is, because the alleged conduct did not occur in the College’s Education Programs and Activities and/or the alleged conduct occurred outside the geographic boundaries of the United States).

In the event the Title IX Coordinator determines the Formal Complaint should be dismissed pursuant to this Section, the Title IX Coordinator will provide written notice of dismissal to the parties and advise them of their right to appeal as specified in “Appeal.” The Title IX Coordinator may refer the subject matter of the Formal Complaint to other College offices, as appropriate. A dismissal pursuant to this Section is presumptively a final determination for purposes of this Policy, unless otherwise specified in writing by the Title IX Coordinator in the written notice of dismissal.

**XVIII. Notice of Formal Complaint**

Within five (5) days of the Title IX Coordinator receiving a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will transmit a written notice to the Complainant and Respondent that includes:

1. A physical copy of this Policy or a hyperlink to this Policy;
2. Sufficient details known at the time so that the parties may prepare for an initial interview with the investigator, to include the identities of the parties involved in the incident (if known), the conduct allegedly constituting Sexual Harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident (if known);
3. A statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged Sexual Harassment and that a determination of responsibility will not be made until the conclusion of the adjudication and any appeal;
4. Notifying the Complainant and Respondent of their right to be accompanied by an advisor of their choice, as specified in “Advisor of Choice.”
5. Notifying the Complainant and Respondent of their right to inspect and review evidence as specified in “Access to Evidence.”

6. Notifying the Complainant and Respondent of the College's prohibitions on retaliation and false statements specified in Sections "Bad Faith Complaints and False Information" and "Retaliation."
7. Information about resources that are available on campus and in the community.

Should the College elect, at any point, to investigate allegations that are materially beyond the scope of the initial written notice, the College will provide a supplemental written notice describing the additional allegations to be investigated.

## **XIX. Investigation**

### **1. Commencement and Timing**

After the written notice of Formal Complaint is transmitted to the parties, an investigator selected by the Title IX Coordinator or his/her designee will undertake an investigation to gather evidence relevant to the alleged misconduct, including inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. The burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination in the adjudication lies with the College and not with the parties. The investigation will culminate in a written investigation report, specified in "Investigation Report," that will be submitted to the adjudicator during the selected adjudication process. Although the length of each investigation may vary depending on the totality of the circumstances, the College strives to complete each investigation within sixty (60) days of the transmittal of the written notice of Formal Complaint.

### **2. Equal Opportunity**

During the investigation, the investigator will provide an equal opportunity for the parties to be interviewed, to present witnesses (including fact and expert witnesses), and to present other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the investigator retains discretion to limit the number of witness interviews the investigator conducts if the investigator finds that testimony would be unreasonably cumulative, if the witnesses are offered solely as character references and do not have information relevant to the allegations at issue, or if the witnesses are offered to render testimony that is categorically inadmissible, such as testimony concerning sexual history of the Complainant, as specified in "Sexual History." The investigator will not restrict the ability of the parties to gather and present relevant evidence on their own.

The investigation is a party's opportunity to present testimonial and other evidence that the party believes is relevant to resolution of the allegations in the Formal Complaint. A party that is aware of and has a reasonable opportunity to present particular evidence and/or identify particular witnesses during the investigation, and elects not to, will be prohibited from introducing any such evidence during the adjudication absent a showing of mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect.

### **3. Documentation of Investigation**

The investigator will take reasonable steps to ensure the investigation is documented. Interviews of the parties and witnesses may be documented by the investigator's notes, audio recorded, video recorded, or transcribed. The particular method utilized to record the interviews of parties and witnesses will be determined by



the investigator in the investigator's sole discretion, although whatever method is chosen shall be used consistently throughout a particular investigation.

#### **4. Access to the Evidence**

At the conclusion of the evidence-gathering phase of the investigation, but prior to the completion of the investigation report, the investigator will transmit to each party and their advisor, in either electronic or hard copy form, all evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the Formal Complaint, including evidence the College may choose not to rely on at any hearing and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or some other source. Thereafter, the parties will have ten (10) days in which to submit to the investigator a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completing the investigation report.

The parties and their advisors are permitted to review the evidence solely for the purposes of this grievance process and may not duplicate or disseminate the evidence to the public.

#### **5. Investigation Report**

After the period for the parties to provide any written response as specified "Access to Evidence" has expired, the investigator will complete a written investigation report that fairly summarizes the various steps taken during the investigation, summarizes the relevant evidence collected, lists material facts on which the parties agree, and lists material facts on which the parties do not agree. When the investigation report is complete, the investigator will transmit a copy to the Title IX Coordinator. The investigator will also transmit the investigation report to each party and their advisor, in either electronic or hard copy form.

### **XX. Adjudication Process Selection**

After the investigator has sent the investigation report to the parties, the Title IX Coordinator will transmit to each party a notice advising the party of the two different adjudication processes specified in "Adjudication." The notice will explain that the hearing process specified in "Hearing Process" is the default process for adjudicating all Formal Complaints and will be utilized unless both parties voluntarily consent to administrative adjudication as specified in "Administrative Adjudication (Optional)" as a form of informal resolution. The notice will be accompanied by a written consent to administrative adjudication and will advise each party that, if both parties execute the written consent to administrative adjudication, then the administrative adjudication process will be used in lieu of the hearing process. Parties are urged to carefully review this Policy (including the entirety of "Adjudication"), consult with their advisor, and consult with other persons as they deem appropriate (including an attorney) prior to consenting to administrative adjudication.

Each party will have three (3) days from transmittal of the notice specified in this Section to return the signed written consent form to the Title IX Coordinator. If either party does not timely return the signed written consent, that party will be deemed not to have consented to administrative adjudication and the Formal Complaint will be adjudicated pursuant to the hearing process.

### **XXI. Adjudication**



## 1. **Hearing Process**

The default process for adjudicating Formal Complaints is the hearing process specified in this Section (“Hearing Process”). The hearing process will be used to adjudicate all Formal Complaints unless both parties timely consent to administrative adjudication as specified in “Adjudication Process Selection.”

### a. **Hearing Panel**

After receiving the investigation report, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the hearing panel. The hearing panel will consist of the following, appointed by the Title IX Coordinator: one (1) Program Coordinator, one (1) Faculty Member, and one (1) Staff member. The hearing panel will oversee the hearing process and render a determination of responsibility for the allegations in the Formal Complaint, at the conclusion of the hearing process. The Title IX Coordinator will see that the hearing panel is provided a copy of the investigation report and a copy of all evidence transmitted to the parties by the investigator as specified in “Access to Evidence.”

### b. **Hearing Notice and Response to the Investigation Report**

After the hearing panel is appointed by the Title IX Coordinator, the hearing panel will promptly transmit written notice to the parties notifying the parties of the hearing panel’s appointment; setting a deadline for the parties to submit any written response to the investigation report; setting a date for the pre-hearing conference; setting a date and time for the hearing; and providing a copy of the College’s Hearing Procedures. Neither the pre-hearing conference, nor the hearing itself, may be held any earlier than ten (10) days from the date of transmittal of the written notice specified in this Section (“Hearing Notice and Response to the Investigation Report”).

A party’s written response to the investigation report must include:

- i. To the extent the party disagrees with the investigation report, any argument or commentary regarding such disagreement;
- ii. Any argument that evidence should be categorically excluded from consideration at the hearing based on privilege, relevancy, the prohibition on the use of sexual history specified in “Sexual History,” or for any other reason;
- iii. A list of any witnesses that the party contends should be requested to attend the hearing pursuant to an attendance notice issued by the hearing panel;
- iv. A list of any witnesses that the party intends to bring to the hearing without an attendance notice issued by the hearing panel;
- v. Any objection that the party has to the College’s Hearing Procedures;
- vi. Any request that the parties be separated physically during the pre-hearing conference and/or hearing;

- vii. Any other accommodations that the party seeks with respect to the pre-hearing conference and/or hearing;
- viii. The name and contact information of the advisor who will accompany the party at the pre-hearing conference and hearing;
- ix. If the party does not have an advisor who will accompany the party at the hearing, a request that the College provide an advisor for purposes of conducting questioning as specified in "Hearing."

A party's written response to the investigation report may also include:

- i. Argument regarding whether any of the allegations in the Formal Complaint are supported by a preponderance of the evidence; and
- ii. Argument regarding whether any of the allegations in the Formal Complaint constitute Sexual Harassment.

**c. Pre-Hearing Conference**

Prior to the hearing, the hearing panel will conduct a pre-hearing conference with the parties and their advisors. The pre-hearing conference will be conducted live, with simultaneous and contemporaneous participation by the parties and their advisors. By default, the pre-hearing conference will be conducted with the hearing panel, the parties, the advisors, and other necessary College personnel together in the same physical location. However, upon request of either party, the parties will be separated into different rooms with technology enabling the parties to participate simultaneously and contemporaneously by video and audio.

In the hearing panel's discretion, the pre-hearing conference may be conducted virtually, by use of video and audio technology, where all participants participate simultaneously and contemporaneously by use of such technology.

During the pre-hearing conference, the hearing panel will discuss the hearing procedures with the parties; address matters raised in the parties' written responses to the investigation report, as the hearing panel deems appropriate; discuss whether any stipulations may be made to expedite the hearing; discuss the witnesses the parties have requested be served with notices of attendance and/or witnesses the parties plan to bring to the hearing without a notice of attendance; and resolve any other matters that the hearing panel determines, in the hearing panel's discretion, should be resolved before the hearing.

**d. Issuance of Notices of Attendance**

After the pre-hearing conference, the hearing panel will transmit notices of attendance to any College employee (including administrator, faculty, or staff) or student whose attendance is requested at the hearing as a

witness. The notice will advise the subject of the specified date and time of the hearing and advise the subject to contact the hearing panel immediately if there is a material and unavoidable conflict.

The subject of an attendance notice should notify any manager, faculty member, coach, or other supervisor, as necessary, if attendance at the hearing will conflict with job duties, classes, or other obligations. All such managers, faculty members, coaches, and other supervisors are required to excuse the subject of the obligation, or provide some other accommodation, so that the subject may attend the hearing as specified in the notice.

The College will not issue a notice of attendance to any witness who is not an employee or a student.

e. **Hearing**

After the pre-hearing conference, the hearing panel will convene and conduct a hearing pursuant to the College's Hearing Procedures. The hearing will be audio recorded. The audio recording will be made available to the parties for inspection and review on reasonable notice, including for use in preparing any subsequent appeal.

The hearing will be conducted live, with simultaneous and contemporaneous participation by the parties and their advisors. By default, the hearing will be conducted with the hearing panel, the parties, the advisors, witnesses, and other necessary College personnel together in the same physical location. However, upon request of either party, the parties will be separated into different rooms with technology enabling the parties to participate simultaneously and contemporaneously by video and audio. Neither party will be compelled to testify in the physical presence of the other party.

In the hearing panel's discretion, the hearing may be conducted virtually, by use of video and audio technology, where all participants participate simultaneously and contemporaneously by use of such technology.

While the Hearing Procedures and rulings from the hearing panel will govern the particulars of the hearing, each hearing will include, at a minimum:

- i. Opportunity for each party to address the hearing panel directly and to respond to questions posed by the hearing panel;
- ii. Opportunity for each party's advisor to ask directly, orally, and in real time, relevant questions, and follow up questions, of the other party and any witnesses, including questions that support or challenge credibility;
- iii. Opportunity for each party to raise contemporaneous objections to testimonial or non-testimonial evidence and to have such

objections ruled on by the hearing panel and a reason for the ruling provided;

- iv. Opportunity for each party to submit evidence that the party did not present during the investigation due to mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect;
- v. Opportunity for each party to make a brief closing argument.

Except as otherwise permitted by the hearing panel, the hearing will be closed to all persons except the parties, their advisors, the investigator, the hearing panel, the Title IX Coordinator, and other necessary College personnel. With the exception of the investigator and the parties, witnesses will be sequestered until such time as their testimony is complete. The parties will not be permitted to question the other party directly.

During the hearing, the parties and their advisors will have access to the investigation report and evidence that was transmitted to them pursuant to "Access to Evidence."

While a party has the right to attend and participate in the hearing with an advisor, a party and/or advisor who materially and repeatedly violates the rules of the hearing in such a way as to be materially disruptive, may be barred from further participation and/or have their participation limited, as the case may be, in the discretion of the hearing panel.

Subject to the minimum requirements specified in this Section ("Hearing"), the hearing panel will have sole discretion to determine the manner and particulars of any given hearing, including with respect to the length of the hearing, the order of the hearing, and questions of admissibility. The hearing panel will independently and contemporaneously screen questions for relevance in addition to resolving any contemporaneous objections raised by the parties and will explain the rationale for any evidentiary rulings.

The hearing is not a formal judicial proceeding and strict rules of evidence do not apply. The hearing panel will have discretion to modify the Hearing Procedures, when good cause exists to do so, and provided the minimal requirements specified in this Section ("Hearing") are met.

**f. Subject to Questioning**

In the event that any party or witness refuses to attend the hearing, or attends but refuses to submit to questioning by the parties' advisors, the statements of that party or witness, as the case may be, whether given during the investigation or during the hearing, will not be considered by the hearing panel in reaching a determination of responsibility.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the hearing panel may consider the testimony of any party or witness, whether given during the investigation

or during the hearing, if the parties jointly stipulate that the testimony may be considered or in the case where neither party requested attendance of the witness at the hearing.

In applying this Section (“Subjection to Questioning”), the hearing panel will not draw an inference about the determination regarding responsibility based solely on a party or a witness’s absence from the live hearing and/or refusal to submit to questioning by the parties’ advisors.

Notwithstanding any provisions of this Policy, if a matter subject to a hearing is referred for consideration under the Student Code of Conduct, Faculty Handbook, or other applicable College policy or procedure, any information collected from a party or witness who refuses to attend a hearing under this Policy or attends but refuses to submit to questioning by the parties’ advisors, including testimony collected during the investigation under this Policy, may be evaluated and considered under the Code of Conduct, Faculty Handbook, or other applicable policy or procedure.

**g. Deliberation and Determination**

After the hearing is complete, the hearing panel will objectively evaluate all relevant evidence collected during the investigation, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence, together with testimony and non-testimony evidence received at the hearing, and ensure that any credibility determinations made are not based on a person’s status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness. The hearing panel will take care to exclude from consideration any evidence that was ruled inadmissible at the pre-hearing conference, during the hearing, or by operation of “Subjection to Questioning.” The hearing panel will resolve disputed facts using a preponderance of the evidence (that is, “more likely than not”) standard and reach a determination regarding whether the facts that are supported by a preponderance of the evidence constitute one or more violations of the Policy as alleged in the Formal Complaint.

**h. Discipline and Remedies**

In the event the hearing panel determines that the Respondent is responsible for violating this Policy, the hearing panel will, prior to issuing a written decision, consult with an appropriate College official with disciplinary authority over the Respondent and such official will determine any discipline to be imposed. The hearing panel will also, prior to issuing a written decision, consult with the Title IX Coordinator who will determine whether and to what extent ongoing support measures or other remedies will be provided to the Complainant.

**i. Written Decision**

After reaching a determination and consulting with the appropriate College official and Title IX Coordinator as required by “Discipline and Remedies,” the hearing panel will prepare a written decision that will include:

- i. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting Sexual

Harassment made in the Formal Complaint;

- ii. A description of the procedural steps taken by the College upon receipt of the Formal Complaint, through issuance of the written decision, including notification to the parties, interviews with the parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather non-testimonial evidence, and the date, location, and people who were present at or presented testimony at the hearing.
- iii. Articulate findings of fact, made under a preponderance of the evidence standard, that support the determination;
- iv. A statement of, and rationale for, each allegation that constitutes a separate potential incident of Sexual Harassment, including a determination regarding responsibility for each separate potential incident;
- v. The discipline determined by the appropriate College official as referenced in "Discipline and Remedies";
- vi. Whether the Complainant will receive any ongoing support measures or other remedies as determined by the Title IX Coordinator; and
- vii. A description of the College's process and grounds for appeal, as specified in "Appeal."

The hearing panel's written determination, which will include information regarding appeal rights, will be transmitted to the parties. Transmittal of the written determination to the parties concludes the hearing process, subject to any right of appeal as specified in "Appeal."

Although the length of each adjudication by hearing will vary depending on the totality of the circumstances, the College strives to issue the hearing panel's written determination within seven (7) days of the decision.

## **XXII. Dismissal During Investigation or Adjudication**

The College shall dismiss a Formal Complaint at any point during the investigation or adjudication process if the Title IX Coordinator determines that one or more of the following is true:

1. The conduct alleged in the Formal Complaint would not constitute Sexual Harassment, even if proved; or
2. The conduct alleged in the Formal Complaint falls outside the scope of the Policy specified in "Scope" (that is, because the alleged conduct did not occur in the College's Education Programs and Activities and/or the alleged conduct occurred outside the geographic boundaries of the United States).

The College may dismiss a Formal Complaint at any point during the investigation or adjudication process if the Title IX Coordinator determines that any one or more of the following is true:

1. The Complainant provides the Title IX Coordinator written notice that the Complainant wishes to withdraw the Formal Complaint or any discrete allegations therein (in which case those discrete allegations may be dismissed);
2. The Respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the College, as the case may be; or
3. Specific circumstances prevent the College from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the Formal Complaint, or any discrete allegations therein (in which case those discrete allegations may be dismissed).

In the event the Title IX Coordinator dismisses a Formal Complaint pursuant to this Section, the Title IX Coordinator will provide written notice of dismissal to the parties and advise them of their right to appeal as specified in "Appeal." The Title IX Coordinator may refer the subject matter of the Formal Complaint to other College offices, as appropriate. A dismissal pursuant to this Section is presumptively a final determination as it pertains to this Policy, unless otherwise specified in writing by the Title IX Coordinator in the written notice of dismissal.

### **XXIII. Appeal**

Either party may appeal the determination of an adjudication, or a dismissal of a Formal Complaint, on one or more of the following grounds:

1. A procedural irregularity affected the outcome;
2. There is new evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination or dismissal was made, that could have affected the outcome;
3. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, hearing panel, or administrative officer, as the case may be, had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally, or against the individual Complainant or Respondent, that affected the outcome.
4. The sanction is disproportionate with the outcome.

No other grounds for appeal are permitted.

A party must file an appeal within seven (7) days of the date they receive notice of dismissal or determination appealed from or, if the other party appeals, within three (3) days of the other party appealing, whichever is later. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the College President/CEO who serves as the appeal officer. The appeal must specifically identify:

1. The determination and/or dismissal appealed from,
2. Articulate which one or more of the four grounds for appeal are being asserted,
3. Explain in detail why the appealing party believes the appeal should be granted, and
4. Articulate what specific relief the appealing party seeks.

Promptly upon receipt of an appeal, the appeal officer will conduct an initial evaluation to confirm that the appeal is timely filed and that it invokes at least one of the permitted grounds for appeal. If the appeal officer determines that the appeal is not timely, or that it fails to invoke a permitted ground for appeal, the appeal officer will dismiss the appeal and provide written notice of the same to the parties.



If the appeal officer confirms that the appeal is timely and invokes at least one permitted ground for appeal, the appeal officer will provide written notice to the other party that an appeal has been filed and that the other party may submit a written opposition to the appeal within seven (7) days. The appeal officer shall also promptly obtain from the Title IX Coordinator any records from the investigation and adjudication necessary to resolve the grounds raised in the appeal.

Upon receipt of any opposition, or after the time period for submission of an opposition has passed without one being filed, the appeal officer will promptly decide the appeal and transmit a written decision within seven (7) days to the parties that explains the outcome of the appeal and the rationale.

The determination of a Formal Complaint, including any discipline, becomes final when the time for appeal has passed with no party filing an appeal or, if any appeal is filed, at the point when the appeal officer has resolved all appeals, either by dismissal or by transmittal of a written decision.

No further review beyond the appeal is permitted.

Although the length of each appeal will vary depending on the totality of the circumstances, the College strives to issue the appeal officer's written decision within thirty (30) days of an appeal being filed.

#### **XXIV. Potential Outcomes Following a Finding of a Policy Violation**

##### **1. Sanctions**

When a final determination is made that an individual has violated this Policy, the appropriate sanctions are determined based on several factors, including the severity of the conduct and any prior policy violations. Sanctions and corrective actions can include, but are not limited to: verbal reprimand; written reprimand; mandatory training, coaching, or counseling; mandatory monitoring; partial or full probation; partial or full suspension; fines; permanent separation from the institution (that is, termination or dismissal); physical restriction from College property; cancellation of contracts; and any combination of the same.

##### **2. Remedies**

After a final decision is made that an individual has violated this Policy, the College may also offer additional measures, and/or take other action, to eliminate any hostile environment caused by the Sexual Harassment, prevent the recurrence of any Sexual Harassment, and remedy the effects of the Sexual Harassment on the Complainant and the College community. Remedies that may be offered or provided to a Complainant may include the same individualized services described as Supportive Measures; however, remedies need not be non-disciplinary or non-punitive and need not avoid burdening the Respondent.

#### **XXV. Advisor of Choice**

From the point a Formal Complaint is made, and until an investigation, adjudication, and appeal are complete, the Complainant and Respondent will have the right to be accompanied by an advisor of their choice to all meetings, interviews, and hearings that are part of the investigation, adjudication, and appeal process. The advisor may be, but is not required to be,

an attorney.

Except for the questioning of witnesses during the hearing specified in "Hearing," the advisor will play a passive role and is not permitted to communicate on behalf of a party, insist that communication flow through the advisor, or communicate with the College about the matter without the party being included in the communication. In the event a party's advisor of choice engages in material violation of the parameters specified in this Section and "Hearing," the College may preclude the advisor from further participation, in which case the party may select a new advisor of their choice.

In the event a party is not able to secure an advisor to attend the hearing specified in "Hearing," and requests the College to provide an advisor, the College will provide the party an advisor, without fee or charge, who will conduct questioning on behalf of the party at the hearing. The College will have sole discretion to select the advisor it provides. The advisor the College provides may be, but is not required to be, an attorney.

The College is not required to provide a party with an advisor in any circumstance except where the party does not have an advisor present at the hearing specified in "Hearing," and requests that the College provide an advisor.

**XXVI. Treatment Records and Other Privileged Information**

During the investigation and adjudication processes, the investigator and adjudicator, as the case may be, are not permitted to access, consider, disclose, permit questioning concerning, or otherwise use:

1. A party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party; or
2. Information or records protected from disclosure by any other legally-recognized privilege, such as the attorney client privilege;
3. Unless the College has obtained the party's voluntary, written consent to do so for the purposes of the investigation and adjudication process.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the investigator and/or adjudicator, as the case may be, may consider any such records or information otherwise covered by this Section if the party holding the privilege affirmatively discloses the records or information to support their allegation or defense, as the case may be.

**XXVII. Sexual History**

During the investigation and adjudication processes, questioning regarding a Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Complainant who affirmatively uses information otherwise considered irrelevant by this Section for the purpose of supporting the Complainant's allegations, may be deemed to have waived the

protections of this Section.

#### XXVIII. **Informal Resolution**

At any time after the parties are provided written notice of the Formal Complaint as specified in "Notice of Formal Complaint," and before the completion of any appeal specified in "Appeal," the parties may voluntarily consent, with the Title IX Coordinator's approval, to engage in mediation, facilitated resolution, or other form of dispute resolution the goal of which is to enter into a final resolution resolving the allegations raised in the Formal Complaint by agreement of the parties. Administrative Adjudication as specified in "Administrative Adjudication" is a form of informal resolution.

The specific manner of any informal resolution process will be determined by the parties and the Title IX Coordinator, in consultation together. Prior to commencing the informal resolution process agreed upon, the Title IX Coordinator will transmit a written notice to the parties that:

1. Describes the parameters and requirements of the informal resolution process to be utilized;
2. Identifies the individual responsible for facilitating the informal resolution (who may be the Title IX Coordinator, another College official, or a suitable third-party);
3. Explains the effect of participating in informal resolution and/or reaching a final resolution will have on a party's ability to resume the investigation and adjudication of the allegations at issue in the Formal Complaint; and
4. Explains any other consequence resulting from participation in the informal resolution process, including a description of records that will be generated, maintained, and/or shared.

After receiving the written notice specified in this paragraph, each party must voluntarily provide written consent to the Title IX Coordinator, before the informal resolution may commence.

During the pendency of the informal resolution process, the investigation and adjudication processes that would otherwise occur are stayed and all related deadlines are suspended.

If the parties reach a resolution through the informal resolution process, and the Title IX Coordinator agrees that the resolution is not clearly unreasonable, the Title IX Coordinator will reduce the terms of the agreed resolution to writing and present the resolution to the parties for their written signature. Once both parties and the Title IX Coordinator sign the resolution, the resolution is final, and the allegations addressed by the resolution are considered resolved and will not be subject to further investigation, adjudication, remediation, or discipline by the College, except as otherwise provided in the resolution itself, absent a showing that a party induced the resolution by fraud, misrepresentation, or other misconduct or where required to avoid a manifest injustice to either party or to the College. Notwithstanding the forgoing if the form of informal resolution is Administrative Adjudication as specified in "Administrative Adjudication," there shall not be an agreed resolution requiring the parties' signatures; instead, the determination issued by the administrative officer shall serve as the resolution and conclude the informal resolution process, subject only to any right of appeal. With the exception of a resolution resulting from the Administrative Adjudication process specified in "Administrative Adjudication," all other forms of informal resolution pursuant to this Section

("Informal Resolution") are not subject to appeal.

A party may withdraw their consent to participate in informal resolution at any time before a resolution has been finalized.

Absent extension by the Title IX Coordinator, any informal resolution process must be completed within twenty-one (21) days. If an informal resolution process does not result in a resolution within twenty-one (21) days, and absent an extension, abeyance, or other contrary ruling by the Title IX Coordinator, the informal resolution process will be deemed terminated, and the Formal Complaint will be resolved pursuant to the investigation and adjudication procedures. The Title IX Coordinator may adjust any time periods or deadlines in the investigation and/or adjudication process that were suspended due to the informal resolution.

Other language in this Section ("Informal Resolution") notwithstanding, informal resolution will not be permitted if the Respondent is a non-student employee accused of committing Sexual Harassment against a student.

#### **1. Administrative Adjudication**

In lieu of the hearing process, the parties may consent to have a Formal Complaint resolved by administrative adjudication as a form of informal resolution. Administrative adjudication is voluntary and must be consented to in writing by both parties and approved by the Title IX Coordinator as specified in "Adjudication Process Selection." At any time prior to the issuance of the administrative officer's determination, a party has the right to withdraw from administrative adjudication and request a live hearing as specified in "Hearing Process."

If administrative adjudication is selected, the Title IX Coordinator will appoint an administrative officer. The Title IX Coordinator will see that the administrative adjudicator is provided a copy of the investigation report and a copy of all the evidence transmitted to the parties by the investigator as specified in "Access to Evidence."

The administrative officer will promptly send written notice to the parties notifying the parties of the administrative officer's appointment; setting a deadline for the parties to submit any written response to the investigation report; and setting a date and time for each party to meet with the administrative officer separately. The administrative officer's meetings with the parties will not be held any earlier than ten (10) days from the date of transmittal of the written notice specified in this paragraph.

A party's written response to the investigation report must include:

- a. To the extent the party disagrees with the investigation report, any argument or commentary regarding such disagreement;
- b. Any argument that a particular piece or class of evidence should be categorically excluded from consideration at the hearing based on privilege, relevancy, the prohibition on the use of sexual history specified in "Sexual History," or for any other reason;

- c. Argument regarding whether any of the allegations in the Formal Complaint are supported by a preponderance of the evidence;
- d. Argument regarding whether any of the allegations in the Formal Complaint constitute Sexual Harassment.

After reviewing the parties' written responses, the administrative officer will meet separately with each party to provide the party with an opportunity make any oral argument or commentary the party wishes to make and for the administrative officer to ask questions concerning the party's written response, the investigative report, and/or the evidence collected during the investigation.

After meeting with each party, the administrative officer will objectively reevaluate all relevant evidence, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence and ensure that any credibility determinations made are not based on a person's status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness. The administrative officer will take care to exclude from consideration any evidence that the administrative officer determines should be ruled inadmissible based on the objections and arguments raised by the parties in their respective written responses to the investigation report. The administrative officer will resolve disputed facts using a preponderance of the evidence (that is, "more likely than not") standard and reach a determination regarding whether the facts that are supported by a preponderance of the evidence constitute one or more violations of the Policy as alleged in the Formal Complaint.

Thereafter, the administrative officer will consult with any College official and the Title IX Coordinator, in the manner specified in "Deliberation and Determination" and will prepare and transmit a written decision in the manner as specified in "Written Decision" which shall serve as a resolution for purposes of informal resolution. Transmittal of the administrative officer's written determination concludes the administrative adjudication, subject to any right of appeal as specified in "Appeal."

Although the length of each administrative adjudication will vary depending on the totality of the circumstances, the College strives to issue the administrative officer's written determination within twenty-one (21) days of the transmittal of the initiating written notice specified in this Section ("Administrative Adjudication").

Other language in this Section notwithstanding, informal resolution will not be permitted if the Respondent is a non-student employee accused of committing Sexual Harassment against a student.

**XXIX. Presumption of Non-Responsibility**

From the time a report or Formal Complaint is made, a Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged misconduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made final.

**XXX. Resources**

Any individual affected by or accused of Sexual Harassment will have equal access to support and counseling services offered through the College. The College encourages any individual who has questions or concerns to seek support of College identified resources. The Title IX

Coordinator is available to provide information about the College's Policy and procedure and to provide assistance. A list of existing counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance, student financial aid, and other services and resources available is located at the following links: <https://www.brcn.edu/about-us/institutional-disclosures-consumer-information> or <https://www.brcn.edu/about-us/campus-safety>

**XXXI. Conflicts of Interest, Bias, and Procedural Complaints**

The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, hearing panel, administrative officer, appeals officer, and informal resolution facilitator will be free of any material conflicts of interest or material bias. Any party who believes one or more of these College officials has a material conflict of interest or material bias must raise the concern promptly so that the College may evaluate the concern and find a substitute, if appropriate. The parties will be notified of the identities of the decision maker and appeal reviewer for their proceeding before those individual(s) initiate contact with either party. The failure of a party to timely raise a concern of a conflict of interest or bias may result in a waiver of the issue for purposes of any appeal specified in "Appeal," or otherwise.

**XXXII. Objections Generally**

Parties are expected to raise any objections, concerns, or complaints about the investigation, adjudication, and appeals process in a prompt and timely manner so that the College may evaluate the matter and address it, if appropriate.

**XXXIII. Academic Freedom**

While the College is committed to the principles of free inquiry and free expression, Sexual Harassment is neither legally protected expression nor the proper exercise of academic freedom. While Sexual Harassment can include verbal and written conduct, the College's policies establishing academic freedom provide significant space for individuals to express controversial views, teach controversial subjects, and engage in controversial research. As such, the offensiveness of a particular expression, course content, subject of academic inquiry, or research topic, as perceived by some, standing alone, is not sufficient to constitute a violation of this policy.

Faculty, staff, and students should be aware that conduct occurring in the context of educational instruction may exceed academic freedom if it meets the definition of Sexual Harassment and, for example, is not germane to academic subject matter, lacks a pedagogical purpose, is defamatory or libelous, or threatens physical harm or imminent violence. In no case will a Respondent be found to have committed Sexual Harassment based on expressive conduct that is protected by the College's policies establishing academic freedom.

**XXXIV. Recordings**

Wherever this Policy specifies that an audio or video recording will be made, the recording will be made only by the College and is considered property of the College, subject to any right of access that a party may have under this Policy, FERPA, and other applicable federal, state, or local laws. Only the College is permitted to make audio or video recordings under this Policy. The surreptitious recording of any meeting, interview, hearing, or other interaction contemplated under this Policy is strictly prohibited. Any party who wishes to transcribe a hearing by use of a transcriptionist must seek pre-approval from the hearing panel.

**XXXV. Vendors, Contractors, and Third Parties**

The College does business with various vendors, contractors, and other third-parties who are not students or employees of the College. Notwithstanding any rights that a given vendor,



contractor, or third-party Respondent may have under this Policy, the College retains its right to limit any vendor, contractor, or third-party's access to campus for any reason. And the College retains all rights it enjoys by contract or law to terminate its relationship with any vendor, contractor, or third-party irrespective of any process or outcome under this Policy.

**XXXVI. Bad Faith Complaints and False Information**

The College encourages the good faith reporting of Sexual Harassment. However, the College will not allow this Policy to be abused for improper purposes. It is a violation of this Policy for any person to submit a report or Formal Complaint that the person knows, at the time the report or Formal Complaint is submitted, to be false or frivolous. It is also a violation of this Policy for any person to knowingly make a materially false statement during the course of an investigation, adjudication, or appeal under this Policy. Violations of this Section are not subject to the investigation and adjudication processes in this Policy; instead, they will be addressed under the Code of Student Conduct in the case of students and other College policies and standards, as applicable, for other persons. Violations of this Section will be subject to discipline, and such discipline will not be considered Retaliation under this Policy.

**XXXVII. Retaliation**

It is a violation of this Policy to engage in Retaliation. Reports and Formal Complaints of retaliation may be made in the manner specified in "Reporting Sexual Harassment," and "Formal Complaint." Any report or Formal Complaint of Retaliation will be processed under this Policy in the same manner as a report or Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment, as the case may be. The College retains discretion to consolidate a Formal Complaint of Retaliation with a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment for investigation and/or adjudication purposes if the two Formal Complaints share a common nexus.

Individuals who engage in Retaliation may be subject to disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, the sanctions listed in this Policy ("Potential Outcomes Following a Finding of a Policy Violation"), up to and including dismissal or other separation from the College.

**XXXVIII. Confidentiality**

The College will make reasonable and appropriate efforts to preserve an individual's privacy and protect the confidentiality of information when investigating and resolving a complaint. However, because of laws related to reporting and other state and federal laws, the College cannot guarantee confidentiality.

The College will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment or Retaliation including any Complainant, the identity of any individual who has been reported to be a perpetrator of Sexual Harassment or Retaliation including any Respondent, and the identity of any witness. The College will also maintain the confidentiality of its various records generated in response to reports and Formal Complaints, including, but not limited to, information concerning Supportive Measures, notices, investigation materials, adjudication records, and appeal records.

However, the College may reveal the identity of any person or the contents of any record if permitted by FERPA, if necessary to carry out the College's obligations under Title IX and its implementing regulations including the conduct of any investigation, adjudication, or appeal under this Policy or any subsequent judicial proceeding, or as otherwise required by law. Further, notwithstanding the College's general obligation to maintain confidentiality as



specified herein, the parties to a report or Formal Complaint will be given access to investigation and adjudication materials in the circumstances specified in this Policy. While the College will maintain confidentiality specified in this Section, the College will not limit the ability of the parties to discuss the allegations at issue in a particular case. Parties are advised, however, that the manner in which they communicate about, or discuss a particular case, may constitute Sexual Harassment or Retaliation in certain circumstances and be subject to discipline pursuant to the processes specified in this Policy.

Note that certain types of Sexual Harassment are considered crimes for which the College must disclose crime statistics in its Annual Security Report that is provided to the campus community and available to the public. These disclosures will be made without including personally identifying information.

**XXXIX. Other Violations of this Policy**

Alleged violations of this Policy, other than violations of the prohibitions on Sexual Harassment and Retaliation, will be subject to review under the Student Code of Conduct for students, the Faculty Handbook for faculty, or other College policies and standards for employees

**XL. Signatures and Form of Consent**

For purposes of this Policy, either a physical signature or digital signature will be sufficient to satisfy any obligation that a document be signed. Where this policy provides that written consent must be provided, consent in either physical or electronic form, containing a physical or digital signature, as the case may be, will suffice.

**XLI. Deadlines, Time, Notices, and Method of Transmittal**

Where this Policy specifies a period of days by which some act must be performed, the following method of calculation applies:

1. Exclude the day of the event that triggers the period;
2. Count every day, including intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays recognized by the federal government;
3. Include the last day of the period until 5:00 p.m. central time, but if the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday recognized by the federal government, the period continues to run until 5:00 p.m. central time on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday recognized by the federal government.

All deadlines and other time periods specified in this Policy are subject to modification by the College where, in the College's sole discretion, good cause exists. Good cause may include, but is not limited to, the unavailability of parties or witnesses; the complexities of a given case; extended holidays or closures; sickness of the investigator, adjudicator, or the parties; the need to consult with the College's legal counsel; unforeseen weather events; and the like.

Any party who wishes to seek an extension of any deadline or other time period may do so by filing a request with the investigator, hearing panel, administrative officer, appeal officer, or Title IX Coordinator, as the case may be, depending on the phase of the process. Such request must state the extension sought and explain what good cause exists for the requested extension. The College officer resolving the request for extension may, but is not required to, give the other party an opportunity to object. Whether to grant such a requested extension will be in the sole discretion of the College.

The parties will be provided written notice of the modification of any deadline or time period specified in this Policy, along with the reasons for the modification.

Where this Policy refers to notice being given to parties “simultaneously,” notice will be deemed simultaneous if it is provided in relative proximity on the same day. It is not necessary that notice be provided at exactly the same hour and minute.

Unless otherwise specified in this Policy, the default method of transmission for all notices, reports, responses, and other forms of communication specified in this Policy will be email using College email addresses.

A party is deemed to have received notice upon transmittal of an email to their College email address. In the event notice is provided by mail, a party will be deemed to have received notice three (3) days after the notice in question is postmarked.

Any notice inviting or requiring a party or witness to attend a meeting, interview, or hearing will be provided with sufficient time for the party to prepare for the meeting, interview, or hearing as the case may be, and will include relevant details such as the date, time, location, purpose, and participants. Unless a specific number of days is specified elsewhere in this Policy, the sufficient time to be provided will be determined in the sole discretion of the College, considering all the facts and circumstances, including, but not limited to, the nature of the meeting, interview, or hearing; the nature and complexity of the allegations at issue; the schedules of relevant College officials; approaching holidays or closures; and the number and length of extensions already granted.

**XLII. Other Forms of Discrimination**

This Policy applies only to Sexual Harassment as defined herein. Complaints of other forms of sex discrimination are governed by the College’s Non-Discrimination/Equal Opportunity Policy.

**XLIII. Education**

Because the College recognizes that the prevention of Sexual Harassment, including Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking, is important, it offers educational programming to a variety of groups such as: campus personnel; incoming students and new employees participating in orientation; and members of student organizations. Among other elements, such training will cover relevant definitions, procedures, and sanctions; will provide safe and positive options for bystander intervention; and will provide risk reduction information, including recognizing warning signs of abusive behavior and how to avoid potential attacks. The College’s educational programming will comply with the Illinois Preventing Sexual Violence in Higher Education Act and any other applicable federal or state law. To learn more about education resources, please contact the Title IX Coordinator.

**1. Crime Prevention and Safety Awareness Program**

The College prohibits rape, acquaintance rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking and has various programs to educate students and employees about awareness of such offenses and steps that can be taken to prevent them. All faculty, staff, and students receive annual training and education regarding sexual misconduct.

The College's Crime Prevention and Safety Awareness Program focuses on all incoming students and new employees and is geared towards stopping dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking before they occur through the promotion of positive and healthy behaviors that foster healthy, mutually respectful relationships and sexuality; encourage safe bystander intervention; and seek to change behavior and social norms in healthy and safe directions.

The Crime Prevention and Safety Awareness Program also includes instruction on safe and positive options for bystander intervention that may be carried out by an individual to prevent harm or intervene where there is a risk of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against a person other than such individual. It also includes information on risk reduction, such as warning signs of abusive behavior and how to avoid potential attacks.

The following are safe and positive options that a bystander can take to intervene and prevent harm or the risk of harm to another individual:

- a. Name or acknowledge an offense
- b. Point to the "elephant in the room"
- c. Interrupt the behavior
- d. Publicly support an aggrieved person
- e. Call for help

The following information relates to risk reduction options that promote safety and help students and employees address conditions that facilitate violence.

If you find yourself in an uncomfortable sexual situation, these suggestions may help you reduce your risk:

- a. Make your limits known before going too far
- b. You can withdraw consent to sexual activity at any time. Do not be afraid to tell a sexual aggressor "NO" clearly and loudly
- c. Try to remove yourself from the physical presence of the sexual aggressor. Be direct as possible about wanting to leave the environment
- d. Solicit someone nearby and ask them for help
- e. Be responsible about your alcohol and/or drug use. Alcohol and drugs can lower your sexual inhibitions and may make you vulnerable to someone who views an intoxicated/high person as a sexual opportunity
- f. Attend large parties with friends you trust. Watch out for your friends and ask that they watch out for you
- g. Be aware of someone trying to slip you an incapacitating "rape drug" like Rohypnol or GHB
- h. It is also important to be aware of the warning signs of an abusive person. Some examples include:

- i. Past abuse
- ii. Threats of violence or abuse
- iii. Breaking objects
- iv. Using force during an argument
- v. Jealousy
- vi. Controlling behavior
- vii. Quick involvement
- viii. Unrealistic expectations
- ix. Isolation
- x. Blaming others for problems
- xi. Hypersensitive
- xii. Cruelty to animals or children
- xiii. "Playful" use of force during sex
- xiv. Jekyll-and-Hyde personality

If you find yourself in the position of being the initiator of sexual behavior, these suggestions may help you to remember your risk of being accused of sexual assault or another sexual crime:

- a. Remember that you owe sexual respect to the other person
- b. Don't make assumptions about the other person's consent or about how far they are willing to go
- c. Remember that consent to one form of sexual activity does not necessarily imply consent to another form of sexual behavior
- d. If your partner expresses a withdrawal of consent, stop immediately
- e. Clearly communicate your sexual intentions so that the other person has a chance to clearly tell you their intentions
- f. Consider "mixed messages" a clear sign that the other person is uncomfortable with the situation and may not be able to progress sexually
- g. Do not take advantage of someone who is drunk or on drugs, even if they knowingly and intentionally put themselves in that state. Further, don't be afraid to step in if you see someone else trying to take advantage of a nearly incapacitated person
- h. Be aware of the signs of incapacitation, such as slurred speech, bloodshot eyes, vomiting, unusual behavior, passing out, staggering, etc.

In addition, the College has an Ongoing Crime Prevention and Safety Awareness Campaign for students and employees. This campaign serves as a refresher for the topics addressed in the Crime Prevention and Safety Awareness Program. It is conducted by means of CBLs, and emails with links to videos for programming, initiatives, and strategies that are focused on increasing understanding of topics

relevant to skills for addressing, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

On-line resources:

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/1is2many/notalone>

<https://www.nsvrc.org/>

**XLIV. Training**

The College will ensure that College officials acting under this Policy, including but not limited to the Title IX Coordinator, investigators, hearing panel, administrative officers, informal resolution facilitators, College provided advisors, and appeals officers receive training in compliance with 34 C.F.R. § 106.45(b)(1)(iii), the Illinois Preventing Sexual Violence in Higher Education Act, and any other applicable federal or state law.

**XLV. Outside Appointments, Dual Appointments, and Delegations**

The College retains discretion to retain and appoint suitably qualified persons who are not College employees to fulfill any function of the College under this Policy, including, but not limited to, the investigator, hearing panel, administrative officer, informal resolution officer, and/or appeals officer.

The College also retains discretion to appoint two or more persons to jointly fulfill the role of investigator, hearing panel, administrative officer, informal resolution officer, and/or appeals officer.

The functions assigned to a given College official under this Policy, including but not limited to the functions assigned to the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, hearing panel, administrative officer, informal resolution officer, and appeals officer, may, in the College's discretion, be delegated by such College official to any suitably qualified individual and such delegation may be recalled by the College at any time.

**XLVI. Recordkeeping**

The College will retain those records specified in 34 C.F.R. § 106.45(b)(10) for a period of seven years after which point in time they may be destroyed, or continue to be retained, in the College's sole discretion. The records specified in 34 C.F.R. § 106.45(b)(10) will be made available for inspection, and/or published, to the extent required by 34 C.F.R. § 106.45(b)(10) and consistent with any other applicable federal or state law, including FERPA.

**XLVII. Definitions**

Words used in this Policy will have those meanings defined herein and if not defined herein will be construed according to their plain and ordinary meaning.

**XLVIII. Discretion in Application**

The College retains discretion to interpret and apply this Policy in a manner that is not clearly unreasonable, even if the College's interpretation or application differs from the interpretation of the parties.

Despite the College's reasonable efforts to anticipate all eventualities in drafting this Policy, it is possible unanticipated or extraordinary circumstances may not be specifically or reasonably addressed by the express Policy language, in which case the College retains discretion to respond to the unanticipated or extraordinary circumstance in a way that is not clearly unreasonable.

The provisions of this Policy and the Hearing Procedures referenced in "Hearing " are not contractual in nature, whether in their own right, or as part of any other express or implied contract. Accordingly, the College retains discretion to revise this Policy and the Hearing Procedures at any time, and for any reason. The College may apply Policy revisions to an active case provided that doing so is not clearly unreasonable.

XLIX. Distribution

This policy will be disseminated widely to the College Community through email communication, the College's website, inclusion in orientation programs for new employees and new students, and other appropriate channels of communication.

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## Attachments

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## Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Approval by College Senate	Reta Richmond	11/2021
Approval by Student Development Committee	Jessica Bliven	09/2021
Approval by Student Development Committee	Andrew Griesbaum	09/2021